



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

BOARD MINUTES

April 22, 2003

Members Present: Mike Vance-*President*, Robert Kinney-*Vice President*, Mike Foley-*Treasurer*, Joelee Baker Bey, Rev. Gerald Bell, Betty Greene, Mark Maloney, Elizabeth Miranda, Frederick Umeh, and Thomas W. Yee

Members Absent: Gloria Coney-*Clerk*, Ralph Cooper, Judy Flashner, Michael Glavin, Charlotte Golar Richie, George Greenidge, Robert Harrington, Joanne Hilferty, Valerie Pruitt, Juanita Wade and John Wagner

BCI Staff: Christine Araujo, Shirley Carrington and Catherine Howard

EDIC Staff: Ken Barnes

Meeting called to order without quorum at 6:25 p.m.

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Vance asked the Board for corrections to the minutes. The minutes will be voted upon when the meeting has quorum.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Vance thanked all who attended this month's Executive Committee meeting and participated in the discussion on the budget with Ms. Hilferty and the Ad Hoc Planning Committee. The next step was developing the Budget.

To respect people's time, future Committee meetings will have defined agendas. People will know in advance the topics to be addressed at meetings and discussion will focus on specific agenda items.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Araujo distributed the Executive Director's written report on the status of programs. ABE/GED numbers are slowly increasing. The word is getting out on tax incentives. EZInfo is in a final testing phase and is almost ready for launch. A business directory will be added soon. BCI and CorJen are hosting an Open House on May 14 at the Reggie Lewis Center from 3 to 7 p.m. to inform the community about employment opportunities with the Crosstown development. Zone residents interested in attending the Open House would have the opportunity to attend an orientation session at BCI on either Wednesday, April 30 or Saturday, May 3. BCI is also working with the Roxbury Resource Center on this endeavor.



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

2201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119 ■ Phone 617-541-2670 ■ Fax 617-427-0747
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The Ex-Offender RFQ was revised and is now available. Responses are due by 5:00 p.m. on May 16. Ms. Araujo thanked Bro. Kinney and Ms. Coney for their assistance.

The Board asked questions about EZInfo's functionality; in particular: if information is searchable by district and the overall functionality of the website.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Budget Committee:

Mr. Foley began by explaining the proposed budget and back up information. One element of the discussion was the flexible funds line item, where any committee that spends all their funds may apply to receive additional funds from the flexible line item.

Mr. Foley reviewed the Programs spreadsheet and specifically those programs that overran their budgets last year and mentioned that they would need reaffirmation that the extra funds draw from the flexible funds line item.

Mr. Foley advised the Board to review the Non-Program spreadsheet and walked through the planned expenditures. This was reviewed in conjunction with the spreadsheet addressing the Governance and Operations of BCI projected to 2006. Finally, the Board reviewed the spreadsheet on proposed allocation to program goals. Through careful review of the Budget, there is \$3,003,371 available for programs.

B. Health & Well Being Committee:

Ms. Greene reported that the Committee met and discussed the pressing need for summer jobs for EZ youth. Thus, there is a proposed Board vote in the package.

C. Capacity Building Committee:

Mr. Baker Bey reminded the Board that the Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

D. Other Business:

Brother Kinney stated his support of stability in staff and fully staffing BCI for 5 years. He issued a "fundraising challenge" to the Board to lead this direction, noting the significant expertise and ability of Board members.

Mr. Vance stated that since quorum has still not been reached no further business can be accomplished at the meeting. A strategy is needed to get work done and a special meeting will have to be called in order to act on pending budget and summer votes.

Discussion centered on summer jobs and Ms. Miranda stated that she already has 150 applicants for 20 jobs. Discussion also centered on the City's decision to ensure that 14 year olds participate in summer camp programs and to focus attention on employment for youth 15 years and older. Mr. Vance echoed need for summer employment for youth. There may be only 7,000 kids hired this summer, less than the 10,000 goal. ABCD is exploring ways to spread out the funds and serve more kids, such as splitting the summer into two sessions. They are also using income qualifications, to target the most needy.



Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date



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